



City of Houston  
Building Inspection  
**CODE WORD 2006**

INTERPRETATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF  
THE HOUSTON ADOPTED CODES  
2006 IBC, 2006 IRC, 2011 NEC, 2006 UMC, 2006 UPC,  
2006 IECC, 2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007

<b>No:</b>	<b>2006-70</b>	<b>Page:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	<b>April 9, 2014</b>				
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Interpretation: Rooftop Applications Allowed Under the IRC</b>				
<b>CODE(S):</b>	<b>Residential Code</b>				
<b>SECTION(S)</b>	<b>IRC 101.2</b>				

The scope of the Houston Residential Code is limited to three stories in height above grade plane. This interpretation is to clarify which rooftop structures are permitted in a three story residence without being considered a fourth story as it applies to the Residential Code.

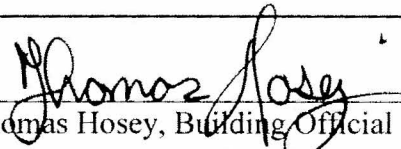
**Height, story** is defined as the vertical distance from top to top of two successive tiers of beams or finished floor surfaces; and for the topmost story, from the top of the floor finish to the top of the ceiling joists or, where there is not a ceiling to the top of the roof rafters.

The following minor rooftop applications will not be considered as a fourth story:

- The stairway and enclosure with the minimum size for an interior landing leading directly to the roof.
- Exterior roof landing with minimum overhang for the required landing area.
- A mechanical room used exclusively to house mechanical equipment, with an equipment layout submitted in the plans.
- An open trellis, lattice or similar shade structure.

This interpretation will apply to plans submitted for the first time with an original application date on or after May 15, 2014.

Approved:

  
Thomas Hosey, Building Official